

NEWSRELEASE

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Offender Website Updated

HELENA – Department of Corrections director Mike Batista today announced that a number of new features have recently been added to the state’s Correctional Offender Network (CON) website.

“In this day and age, a lot of people access websites on their smartphones or tablets, so we’ve given the CON site a facelift and made it compatible with mobile devices,” Batista said. “Even more important, whereas CON used to be updated once a week, it’s now updated continuously throughout the day, so the information is close to real time.”

The CON website allows crime victims and other users to find detailed information on offenders convicted of felonies in Montana. By logging on to <https://app.mt.gov/conweb/>, users can search for adult offenders by criteria such as name (or partial name), date of birth, type of offense, or offender number. Searches return a list of possible matches from which users may select individual records that provide more detail. Individual offender reports list personal information, aliases and a complete legal record, as well as physical characteristics such as the location of scars and tattoos. For many offenders, photos are also available.

These individual offender queries are free to everyone.

Another significant update includes the removal of offenders who have completed their sentences and not returned to the corrections system for three years. This change only applies to offenders whose crimes were not sexual or violent; sexual or violent offenders will continue to remain on the website indefinitely. The change stemmed from the department’s reentry efforts, which aim to help offenders who have completed their sentences successfully reintegrate into their communities.

Information about convictions removed after three years remains public and is still available in response to specific inquiries and criminal background checks, but it is no longer available through a search of the CON website.

As it has been in the past, the CON database is also available in its entirety to outside entities. However, rather than having access to a monthly snapshot, registered users who purchase the entire file now subscribe on a monthly basis and have unlimited access. For a monthly fee, customers can now log into the service at any time during the month to download a new file, available as a zip file via text. The data is now more accurate as any changes are uploaded automatically.

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The Correctional Offender Network Service is the result of an alliance between state government and the private sector. It was cooperatively developed and is supported by the Montana Department of Corrections, the Montana Department of Administration's State Information Technology Services Division, and Montana Interactive, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of eGovernment provider NIC (Nasdaq: EGOV).